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 UNCLAS LA PAZ 1017

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: ALTMANN CASE

RESPONDING TO AN AFP ARTICLE IN WHICH HE WAS QUOTED TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT BANZER HAD REJECTED GOF APPEAL FOR EXTRADITION OF KLAUS ALTMANN, MINISTER-SECRETARY ARCE INFORMED PRESS, AS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 23 DAILIES, THAT THE ONLY OFFICIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CASE WAS THAT RELEASED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE STATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS STILL PROCESSING THE CASE; THEREFORE, "THE DEDUCTIONS MADE BY AFP (NO SON EVI-DENCES). IN THE ONLY OTHER NEW ASPECT OF THE CASE FEBRUARY 23 EL DIARIO REPORTED THAT THE GOB HAD DENIED "NAZI HUNTER" BEATE KLARSFELD A VISA TO RETURN TO BOLIVIA, AND THAT SHE WAS OBLIGED TO REMAIN IN LIMA; IT ADDED THAT SHE INTENDED TO PRESS HER DEMAND FOR A VISA SO SHE CAN "ACCOMPLISH HER MISSION". SIRACUSA

BT
 #1017

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2000 2006

SECRET

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

AMS 23
WICHTELEAD KLARSFELD

BY RENE VILLEGAS

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, FEB. 24, REUTER - NAZI-HUNTER BEATE KLARSFELD ARRIVED IN LA PAZ TODAY WITH DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS SHE CLAIMS PROVE NATURALIZED BOLIVIAN BUSINESSMAN KLAUS ALTMANN IS CONVICTED GESTAPO WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE.

SHE ARRIVED FROM LIMA, PERU, WITH 67-YEAR-OLD MRS. ITA HALAUMBRENNER, WHO SHE SAYS WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY BARBIE.

THE TWO WOMEN HAD BEEN HELD UP FOR 48 HOURS IN LIMA OVER A VISA PROBLEM WHICH WAS CLEARED UP LAST NIGHT.

MRS. KLARSFELD, 33, WHO WORKS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM, REFUSED TO SPEAK TO REPORTERS WAITING AT EL ALTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE.

"I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING NOW. LATER," SHE SAID AS SHE PASSED THROUGH CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION CHECKS.

MRS. HALAUMBRENNER, VISIBLY UPSET BY LACK OF OXYGEN AT THE 13,000 FEET HIGH AIRPORT ON THE ANDEAN "ALTIPLANO" (HIGH PLAIN) SAID IN FRENCH: "BEATE WILL ANSWER EVERYTHING FOR NOW."

MRS. KLARSFELD IS SCHEDULED TO MEET UNDER-SECRETARY OF IMMIGRATION RUDOLF GREMINGER LATER TODAY, GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF 56-YEAR-OLD ALTMANN, WHOM IT ALSO BELIEVES TO BE BARBIE, "THE BUTCHER OF LYONS," RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TORTURE AND EXECUTION OF HUNDREDS OF FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS AND SYMPATHIZERS DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

MRS. HALAUMBRENNER'S HUSBAND AND THREE OF THEIR CHILDREN WERE ARRESTED BY BARBIE IN 1943 AND LATER DIED IN NAZI HANDS.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HERE SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR JEAN MANDEREAU TODAY DELIVERED THE ORIGINAL OF A LETTER WRITTEN TO BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT HUGO BANZER BY FRENCH PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU BACKING THE EXTRADITION REQUEST.

A PHOTOCOPY OF THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED TWO WEEKS AGO. COL. BANZER HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THE ORIGINAL BEFORE WRITING "A BRIEF REPLY". THE SOURCES ADDED.

IN LIMA, BEFORE THE TWO WOMEN LEFT, BOLIVIAN CONSUL RICARDO RIOS ROSSELL SAID THE SPECIAL VISAS GRANTED THEM LAST NIGHT WOULD GIVE THEM MORE FREEDOM OF ACTION IN LA PAZ THAN THEY WOULD HAVE WITH ORDINARY TOURIST VISAS.
REUTER RWG/MJ 1540

2/24